

LATINO MALES CONFERENCE

FACT SHEET

- Puerto Ricans/Latinos are the youngest and fastest growing population in the United States.
- The United States Bureau of the Census predicts that by the year 2050 Latinos will outdistance African-Americans to comprise over 30% of the population.
- Census data from 1990 show that Latinos in New Jersey number 739,861 or 9.6% of the population. The predominant Latino group in the state are Puerto Ricans, comprising 320,133 individuals.
- Census data from 1991 indicate that 23.1% of all Latino families are headed by women, compared to 19.3% of Whites and 58.0% of African-Americans.
- Latino men are most often employed in low-paying jobs with few benefits, such as health insurance, and limited opportunities for advancement.
- Census data show that, in 1991, about one in 10 Latino males (11.4%), compared to more than one in four non-Latino men (27.6%), were employed in managerial or professional jobs. By contrast 29% of Latino men, compared to 19% of non-Latino males were employed in the category of operators, fabricators, and laborers.
- An analysis by the Economic Policy Institute in 1992, indicate that, in 1990, Latino median family income was 63.5% of White family income, down from 65.2% in 1985, 69.3% in 1979, and 69.2% in 1973.
- Latino economic disadvantage is partly explained by the rise in female-headed households. Almost one-quarter (23.1%) of Latino families are maintained by women and half (49.1%) of these families live in poverty.
- In New Jersey, 67.7% of single Latino females with children under the age of 13 live below the poverty level; while 26% of Latino males with minor children live in poverty.
- Latinos are among the most undereducated racial/ethnic groups. As of 1991, a little more than half of all Latinos 25 years old and over (50.5%) had completed four year of high school or more. Almost one in 10 Latinos (9.7%) compared to more than one in five non-Latinos (22.3%) had completed four years of college.
- In the State of New Jersey's 31 urban school districts, the

average rate of graduation is 50% for Latino males.

- . New Jersey's Latinos represent only 3% of 905,111 persons with bachelor's degrees. Latinos were also only 3% of the 462,155 persons with graduate or professional degrees.
- . In 1991, of the 418,789 persons arrested in the State of New Jersey, 51,394 were Latino, (12%). The majority of the arrests were for drug violations and theft.
- . The risk of AIDS among the Latino community is among the highest in the nation. New Jersey ranks fifth in the cumulative number of AIDS cases reported since 1981. Intravenous drugs is the predominate cause. Latinos account for 67% of the cases.
- . The incidence of tuberculosis is six to seven times higher for Latinos than Whites.
- . Smoking, drug abuse and alcohol dependency are three major factors which contribute to the number of excess deaths occurring among the Latino population.
- . Deaths among Latino males 35 -44 years old are one and one-half times more likely to be related to alcohol than deaths in the total population in this age group.
- . For Latinos, unintentional injuries rank within the top five causes of death for both males and females.
- . Environmental and occupational health issues play a major role in a heavily industrialized state such as NJ. During 1983 - 1989, the death rate in the construction industry was highest for Latinos at a rate three times that of Whites.

Sources: 1990 United States Census.

Priorities for Change: State of Affairs of Latinos in New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs, Center for Hispanic Policy Research.

Testimony on the Recent Changes in the Poverty Rate and the Distribution of Income, National Council of La Raza, September 10, 1992, presented before the The Subcommittee on Human Resources, Committee on Ways and Means, U. S. House of Representatives.

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